

**October 7, 2020**

## **St. Louis County COVID-19 Update**

### **St. Louis County Local Education Agency PPE Grant**

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health has allocated \$3 million to help County schools pay for critical personal protective equipment during this pandemic, as announced by Dr. Sam Page on Monday. Public school districts are eligible to apply for funding, which will allow them to obtain matching funds from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The county money is allocated from CARES Act funds remaining from the participatory budgeting process, which was set up to support the needs and priorities of the community. Participants in the participatory budgeting program identified the need for PPE as a major concern, particularly in schools.

Under the state program, DESE will reimburse school districts 25 percent of their costs spent protecting students and staff from COVID-19 as long as the district home county provides 75 percent of the cost. DPH is excited to secure a funding pathway for school districts to receive reimbursement for these unexpected, yet necessary costs.

Schools can apply for reimbursement for eligible PPE expenses incurred from March 13 through October 30, with a funding cap based on the number of students in their districts. Each cap is calculated at a rate of \$20.96 per student in their district.

Each district should submit its application to [dph.ppe@stlouisco.com](mailto:dph.ppe@stlouisco.com). Questions about the program may also be sent to the same email address. Staff will be reviewing the applications and awarding funds on a rolling basis so that schools are able to apply for the DESE grant as soon as possible. Quick submission of applications is highly encouraged. DPH is grateful for this continued partnership and is looking forward to the reviewing the applications.

### **St. Louis County Influenza Report**

As of today, DPH has administered 1,100 flu vaccines within our community and appointments are still available to be made online [here](#). The first seasonal influenza report for St. Louis County is scheduled to be released late this afternoon and will be posted online [here](#). Please remember that getting vaccinated not only protects you, but your family and others as well.

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